

II. REMARKS

Claims 25-28 and 31-33 are pending. Claims 33 and 34 have been cancelled.

Description of Amendments:

In Claim 25, the term "specific" has been added to further point out and more distinctly claim the invention, support for which can be found on page 8 of the specification (The term "specifically hybridizing" means that two nucleic acid molecules are capable of forming an anti-parallel, double-stranded nucleic acid structure), and page 11-12, describing stringency conditions permitting specific nucleic acid hybridization. The term "complementary" has been removed to further point out and more distinctly claim the invention.

In Claim 31, "317" and "465" has been removed.

In Claim 32, to further advance prosecution, the term "cell, tissue sample, or test mammal" has been removed without prejudice to Applicants' right to file divisional applications directed to the subject matter thereof, and the term "hepatocyte" has been added, support for which can be found on page 28 (Example 1) of the specification. The term "determining" has been replaced with the term "detecting" to further point out and more distinctly claim the invention. The terms "317" and "465" has been removed.

In Claim 33, the term "mammal" has been deleted, and the term "hepatocyte" has been added to provide proper claim construction from the antecedent term "hepatocyte".

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

A. Claims 32 and 34 are enabled.

On page 2-3 of the Office Action, claims 32 and 34 were rejected as being not enabled over the full scope claimed.

Claim 34 has been cancelled. Applicants submit that amended Claim 32 is enabled for the measuring the carcinogenicity of compositions in hepatocytes.

B. Amended Claims 25-28, 31-35 are definite.

On page 3-4 of the Office Action, claims 25-28 and 31-35 were rejected as being indefinite.

1. In Claim 25, the Office argues that "under conditions permitting nucleic acid hybridization" is vague. Applicants have amended the term to read "under conditions